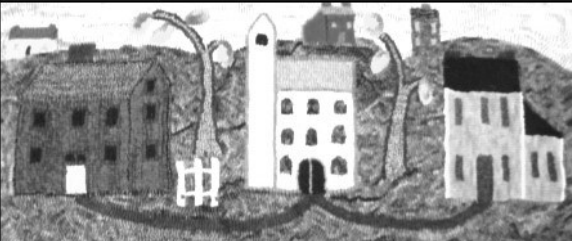



**HOOKED RUGS**  
**Maine Tin Pedlars**  
**March - April 2017**  
**Stonewall Gallery**  
**at the Yarmouth History Center**



Yarmouth Historical Society

*Wish You Were Here!*



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 yarmouthmehistory.org

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 Yarmouth Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 107  
 Yarmouth, ME 04096

Visit  
 Yarmouth History Center  
 118 East Elm Street  
 Yarmouth, ME 04096  
 Tuesday thru Saturday  
 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

# YARMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## The Yarmouth History Center Newsletter

Spring 2017      118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine      207-846-6259

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### Fashions of the Times

On a cold Saturday morning this past January, the Historical Society's Collections Committee and a group of volunteers began the ambitious project of inventorying the garments in the Society's collection.

The goal of the project is to improve our database's cross referencing and catalog more details about individual items. After the weekend work, the project continued with a handful of volunteers returning to complete the tasks of opening, unwrapping, inspecting, cataloging, photographing, rewrapping, and repacking the 57 boxes of garments.

The Society's collection includes a variety of formal tailcoats, wedding gowns illustrating evolving fashion trends, and military uniforms spanning the Civil War to World War II. Nightshirts, chemises, nightgowns, slips, and corsets dominated a few boxes, giving us a glimpse of how involved dressing was decades ago. There were unexpected items, such as an Arctic blue fox stole, and some not-so-unexpected items, like graduation gowns from our local high schools or Girl Scout and Brownie uniforms from a local troop. Notably, the Society has catalogued a Yarmouth Lion's Club Clam Festival vest as a part of its collection. The Yarmouth Historical Society's collection of garments spans decades of fashions trends and represents bits of history from the Yarmouth residents who once wore them.

Executive Director Katie Worthing spoke of the great value of this project and the benefit of having an updated and accurate inventory. "As the new Director, I found this project to be an excellent opportunity to dig into a specific area of the collection and get to know it better." Delving into the collection at this level has inspired ideas for future exhibits for the History Center's gallery. The Society would like to thank the Collections Committee and the volunteers who helped with this project.



**Above:** Katie Worthing photographs a garment as volunteers unpack boxes. Ray Sawyer, Christie Harri-man, and Ben Soule rewrap garments for storage.

**Below:** An example of an accession number tag found attached to each garment, a World War II wool Army jacket, and a beaded mutton-sleeved woman's top.



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 P. O. Box 107  
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## From the Chair

As we look forward to the end of winter Nor'easters, warmer temperatures and more time outdoors, I am reminded how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful community.

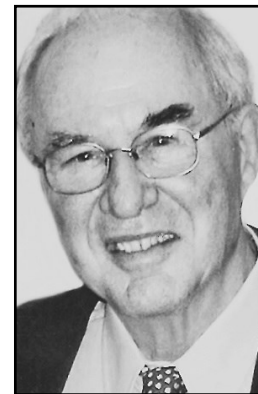
At the Yarmouth History Center, we have much to be thankful for. Once again our members came through in support of our Annual Fund. Each year I worry that we will not make our goal because there are too many competing for charitable donations and too few contributors. But once again this year, we reached our goal. The History Center is blessed to be located in an incredibly generous community. Whether it be \$25 or \$2,500, every gift represents a strong vote of confidence for YHC. I am so grateful to each of our donors. Thank you. (P.S. if you overlooked our request for a donation, it's not too late to donate.)

I also want to express appreciation for Bill Hamill's many contributions to our History Center. Bill died on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the age of 85. During his full and successful life, he was a huge figure in our organization's history. In addition to a successful career in real estate and as a civic leader in Yarmouth, he was not only a member of our Board but also served as our Board Chair. He was a generous supporter, had a keen interest in newly discovered items of Yarmouth's past, and played a major role in raising the funds needed to construct the History Center at its East Elm Street location. We celebrate his life and commitment to YHC every day as we make good use of the William Hamill Community Room at the History Center. We all will miss Bill.



Bill Harwood  
Board Chair

## In Memoriam



### William Dette Hamill 1932-2017

Bill Hamill was a civic minded entrepreneur who engaged in a variety of business and civic endeavors. He was active in the greater Portland community and served on several committees and boards.

Mr. Hamill served on the board of the Yarmouth Historical Society and was an honorary chair of the Historical Society's Capital Campaign. His legacy will live on at the Yarmouth Historical Society and History Center where the Center's community room is named in his honor.

## Save the Date! Appraisal Day, April 8th

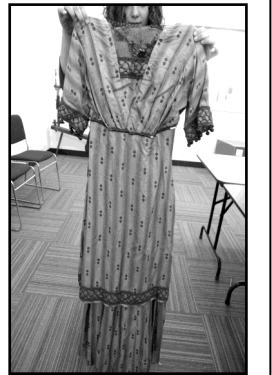


Start gathering your antiques, collectibles, and mystery objects for the Yarmouth Historical Society's Appraisal Day on Saturday, April 8, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This long-standing fundraiser returns this spring with appraisers Colleen Donovan and Christopher Considine from Foreside Antiques in Falmouth. Their talented team of appraisers will help you uncover the history and value of your favorite objects. Prices are as follows: \$10 for 1 item; \$18 for 2 items; \$25 for 3 items. The first item is free for current members of Yarmouth Historical Society. Limit of 3 items per person. Single items only; please no large collections. See our website for more information.

## New to the Collections Committee

Our 2016 summer intern, Miranda Clarke, was a fabulous addition to the Yarmouth History Center's staff. Miranda came highly recommended by her teachers at Yarmouth High School. During the summer she worked for us, she tackled everything from research to filing to exhibit curation—all with great enthusiasm and interest. Miranda continued her work as a volunteer during the following school year. Her dedication and genuine interest in the collection has earned her a seat on the Yarmouth Historical Society's Collections Committee. Miranda is the second Yarmouth High School student to sit on a Historical Society committee.

Miranda came to us by a grant gifted to the Yarmouth Historical Society to provide a paid summer internship to a Yarmouth student. The internship is awarded to a rising senior who has an interest in History or Museum Studies and is attending a Yarmouth school. The internship will be available for the summer of 2017. Please check with your school's history department for more information.



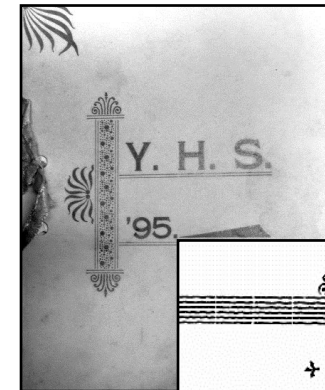
**Above:** Miranda Clarke peers over one of the many dresses she helped inventory last month.

## From the Collection:

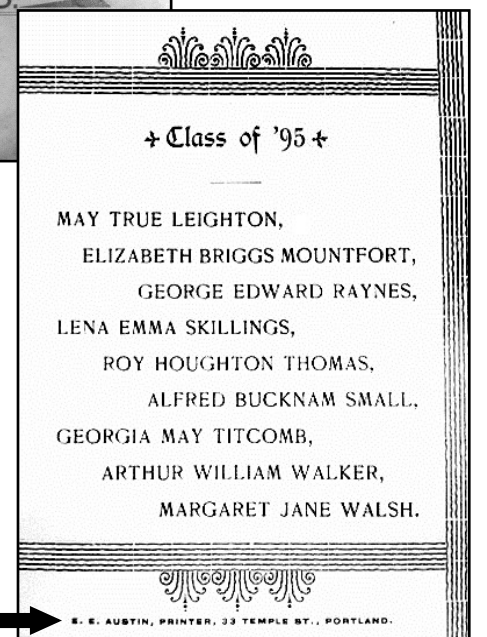
Ever since I began working here at the History Center, I've imagined that I would "meet" a family member or ancestor somewhere in our collection. My family has deep roots all around Yarmouth, from Brunswick to the Portland area, so it just seemed like a natural conclusion. It took a while, but it finally happened this winter as I worked to organize a small collection of objects, which included a diminutive program for the commencement of the Yarmouth High School class of 1895.

The small size, gold ink, and pink ribbon caught my attention, so I opened the book to see the program for the ceremony and the list of graduates, which included Georgia May Titcomb, grandmother of the program's donor, Dick Knight. There are many other familiar local names on the list, but when my eye fell on the printer's imprint on the bottom line, I recognized a name even more familiar: E. E. Austin, my great-great grandfather. Edgar Eaton Austin was a printer in Portland around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At this time, his shop was located at 33 Temple Street. What a lovely chance encounter in our collection!

- Katie Worthing



**Left and Below:** Yarmouth High School Class of '95 Graduation Program



Detail: E.E. Austin, Printer, 33 Temple St., Portland.

E. E. AUSTIN, PRINTER, 33 TEMPLE ST., PORTLAND.

## Upcoming Events and Programs

Lectures are **free** for Yarmouth Historical Society Members and \$5.00 all others.  
**Our lecture series is sponsored by the Leon and Lisa Gorman Fund**

### March

**Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 pm**

Royal River Film Series  
*Return of the River*  
**Free**

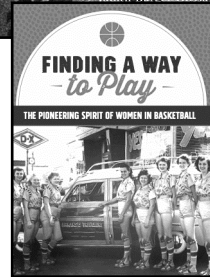
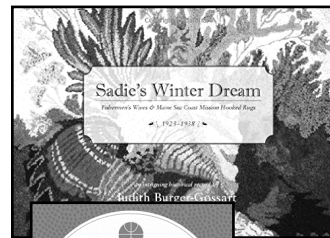
Film Series Sponsored by:

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**Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 pm**

Speaker: Judith Burger-Gossart  
 Lecture: Maine Sea Coast Mission Hooked Rugs  
 Judith Burger-Gossart will speak about her book, *Sadie's Winter Dream*, and the history of Maine Sea Coast Mission hooked rugs. In the 1920s and '30s, the Mission worked to provide opportunities for women living in remote coastal communities of Maine to earn income from making hooked rugs. Burger-Gossart will delve into the fascinating history of this little-known project. Presented in conjunction with the Stonewall Gallery's Exhibition of contemporary hooked rugs.



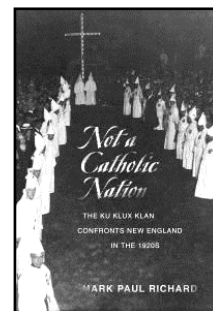
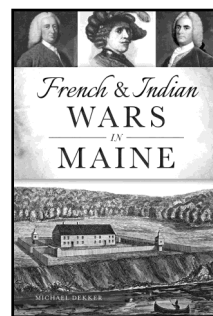
### April

**Saturday, April 8, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

Appraisal Day  
 (Details on page 7)

**Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00 pm**

Speaker: Joanne Lannin  
 Subject: Women in Basketball  
 Yarmouth History Center will host author and journalist Joanne Lannin, author of the 2015 book *Finding a Way to Play: The Pioneering Spirit of Women in Basketball*. Lannin will speak about the challenges female basketball players have faced throughout the history of the sport, beginning with the game's earliest pioneers and continuing to the players of today.



### May

**Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm**

Speaker: Michael Dekker  
 Lecture: The French and Indian Wars in Maine  
 Author and historian Michael Dekker, author of the 2015 book "*French and Indian Wars in Maine*," will speak about the history and impact of these six distinct wars, lasting from 1675 through 1759, on Maine's Native American and European communities.

### June

**Tuesday, June 20 at 7:00 pm**

Speaker: Mark Paul Richard  
 Lecture: The Ku Klux Klan confronts Franco-Americans in the 1920s.  
 The talk will explore Franco-American history in New England, with a focus on Maine.

## Thank You For Supporting the Annual Fund

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# In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



**Clockwise from Left:** Sharon McDonnell and Abdi Iftin, English Country Dancing at the History Center, Pat and Gary Ricker finding familiar faces, Senior Coffee Group holiday celebration in the Hamill Room.



The Yarmouth Historical Society hosted Yarmouth residents Abdi Iftin and Sharon McDonnell as the inaugural guests in its “Yarmouth Stories” series. The pair shared the story of how they connected, as Abdi struggled to survive in Somalia and later make it to the United States from Kenya. Sharon provided crucial guidance and support from Yarmouth throughout the process. There was a group of over forty attendees who came to hear the story of Abdi’s journey to the United States and learn about his life in Maine.

New to the History Center is our mystery photo board. The Center received a recent donation of a volume of photographs taken by *The Notes'* former photographer Ron Turner. It’s a great collection of prints but sadly none of the people in the photographs are identified. We have created a photo board for visitors to view and identify the people in the photographs. The board is refreshed with new photos every two weeks, so drop in for a visit and see if you recognize anyone. We like to thank those who have stopped by to view the photos, reminisce, and put names to faces.

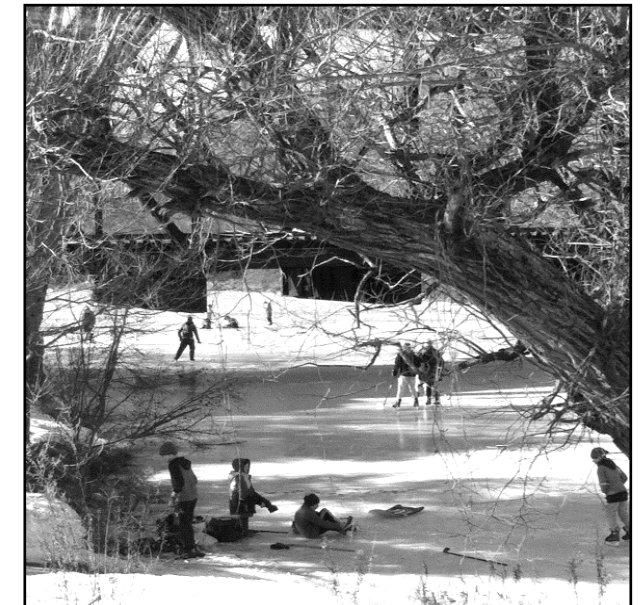
Before the New Year the senior coffee group held their second annual holiday celebration here at the Center. The seniors meet at the History Center in the Hamill Community Room on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings from 8:00 to around 10:00 am. All are welcome to join the group.

The sound of folk tunes performed by live musicians continues to resonate from the History Center’s Hamill Community Room on Wednesday nights. English Country Dancing, Yarmouth Historical Society’s collaboration with 317 Community Music Center, is now in its fourth session. The program offers English Country dance instruction to all levels of dancers. Skip the gym and spend an evening dancing. It is more of a workout than you would think and tons of fun.

# Touring the River on Ice

It is not an event that takes place every winter but for a short spell last month, before the snow, the Royal River froze over. News of this special occurrence spread rapidly and crowds of winter sports enthusiasts converged on the riverbank with their skates, fat tire bicycles, hockey sticks, and pucks to enjoy the long expanse of ice.

Who could resist the taking advantage of this fleeting winter event — perfect ice on a sunny winter’s day. Not many, not even our Executive Director Katie, who took a break from her work, laced up her hockey skates, and set out for a skate up the ice to North Yarmouth and back. What a day!



Skating on the Royal River, January 2017

# Memories of Yarmouth

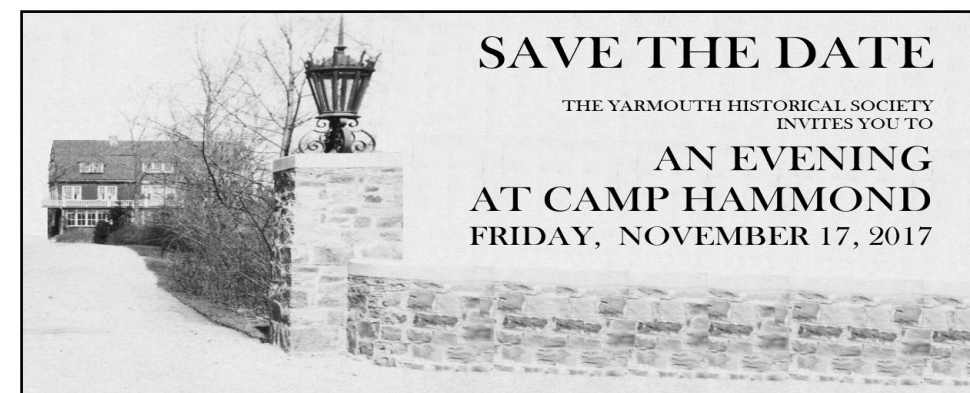
Last year the Yarmouth Historical Society launched new efforts to collect local oral histories of its residents in an effort to enrich our understanding of Yarmouth’s most recent past.

In mid-February, Katie Worthing paid a visit to Helen Maxell, a longtime resident of Yarmouth. Helen, who is 97 years old, very kindly shared stories and reminiscences about growing up, going to school, working, and living in Yarmouth through the years. Helen’s stories, in her own words, will be added to our archives to be shared with future generations of students and researchers.

We encourage everyone, whether young or old, to take steps to capture the stories and memories that will help build our knowledge of life in Yarmouth. If you have questions about collecting oral histories, there is a wealth of information available on our website under the ‘Research’ tab. There you will find links to help you get started. Folks are welcome to use the History Center as a meeting place to record and share memories. Or our staff can come to you. Please ask! We are happy to assist local historians in any way we can.



Helen Maxell (seated) with her daughter, Donna Felker.



## SAVE THE DATE

THE YARMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO

AN EVENING AT CAMP HAMMOND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017

The 2017 Spring Lecture Series begins March 21.

**Lecture:** Maine Sea Coast Mission Hooked Rugs

Details on page 6.